
Meeting of the Housing and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee
– 10th June 2021

Report of the Director of Housing and Community Services

Overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership)
and Focus on Community Cohesion Strategic Group

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Safe and Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) and more detail in respect of the work of the Community Cohesion Strategic Group.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended: -
 - that the content of the report is noted

Background

3. Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership as required in statute by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, its subsequent amendments and other relevant legislation.
4. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 -Section 17 – Amended June 2010 states that: -

“without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour, reduce re-offending, prevent behaviour adversely affecting the environment, and prevent the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area.”
5. The Responsible Authorities are: -
 - Dudley MBC

- West Midlands Police
 - West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service
 - National Probation Service
 - Community Rehabilitation Company (Private Probation)
 - Clinical Commissioning Group
6. There is a duty to cooperate with the Police and Crime Commissioner.
 7. The Responsible Authorities also have a statutory duty to ensure that key agencies come together to work in partnership in a Community Safety Partnership.
 8. While the term “partnership” is applied to all those who sit round the table, legally, the Responsible Authorities are the only bodies or agencies under the duty to meet regulatory requirements.
 9. The Community Safety Partnership’s statutory requirements include: -
 - To do all it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour
 - Reduce re-offending
 - Prevent behaviour adversely affecting the environment
 - Prevent the misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances in its area
 - Take responsibility for Domestic Homicide Review process
 - Produce an Annual Strategic Assessment
 - Hold at least one public meeting per year so that members of the public can meet senior decision makers in respect of community safety

Local Governance

10. The work of the Community Safety Partnership is directed by the Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) Strategic Board. The Board is chaired by Chief Superintendent Kim Madill.
11. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Community Services and the Shadow Cabinet Member are Members of the Community Safety Partnership Board together with representatives from the Responsible Authorities and Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector.
12. The work of Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is carried out by number of sub-groups that relate to the Board’s priorities. (Appendix 1)
13. The work of safe & sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) is currently part of the Health and Wellbeing “system” to ensure a coordinated approach to the work of Boards across the Borough.
14. The Community Safety Partnership also “links” in with the work of Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership and the Youth Offending Service Management Board.

Other Arrangements

15. There are formal links to work that takes place at a regional level for example with the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit, the West Midlands Wide CSP, four "Exploitation Boards" and the Regional Reducing Reoffending Delivery Group.
16. Through working in partnership safe & sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) contributes to the Borough's Vision (Forging a Future for All) in respect of building healthy and resilient communities.

Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) – Priorities

17. Priorities are identified through Dudley Borough's Strategic Assessment, Dudley: Have Your Say (Annual Public Meeting) and WMNow – online consultation Priorities for 2021/22 are: -
 1. Tackling and Reducing Violent Crime (including gang and knife related crime)
 2. Reducing Reoffending – including links to Youth Offending Service – under 18s and First Time Entrants and a focus on females who offend
 3. Reducing Victimisation (including Domestic Violence and Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda)
 4. Reducing Vulnerability – (including Substance Misuse, Mental Health, Modern Slavery, Prevent, Hate Crime)
 5. Reducing Burglaries (links to organised car crime)
 6. Anti-Social Behaviour – (Including the development of a place-based approach to ASB and other "issues")
18. Each sub-group will take into account on-line risks and harms and disproportionality in their action plans.
19. In conjunction with the above priorities there will also be a focus on the West Midlands Police High Impact Areas. For Dudley Borough these areas are "Dudley Central" and Brierley Hill. High Impact Areas are identified by overlaying data including crime and deprivation.

Community Cohesion Strategic Group

20. The Community Cohesion Strategic Group undertakes some of the work relating to the Reducing Vulnerability priority.
21. The Community Cohesion Strategic Group (CCSG) is chaired on behalf of the Community Safety Partnership by the Director of Housing and Community Services. It is a multi-agency group. The purpose of the CCSG is: -
 - To support and promote community cohesion by ensuring that partners come together, share information and direct resources as appropriate.
 - To understand local community dynamics and identify potential or actual tensions
 - To support or coordinate effective responses to these tensions as appropriate

- To minimise the potential negative effects of tensions and hate crime, prevent escalation, and reduce conflict.
- To understand issues relating to hate crime, modern slavery, the prevent agenda and issues relating to gang activity within the Borough and support prevention and intervention work as required
- To implement the community cohesion communications strategy as required

22. Work is taken forward through an action plan and standing agenda items. These agenda items include:-

23. **Community Cohesion**

Tensions are currently assessed to be low level on the tension monitoring report for the Borough.

The tension monitoring form continues to be promoted via various routes so that Partners are aware of issues within the Borough and can respond accordingly

Work within Lye continues with issues being addressed via the multi-agency working group. (Wider Lye – Community Cohesion, Health and Engagement Group)

24. **Hate Crime**

Work has taken place across the Borough to promote the reporting of Hate Crime in response to regional and national increases because of COVID-19. Specific communications have been sent through social media accounts and Hate Crime has been highlighted in our Working together campaign as outlined above.

Additional work took place during Hate Crime Week, including additional communications, a briefing note being sent to educational settings and other partners promoting various resources and training, a 'virtual' 3rd party reporting centre tea party and work undertaken by police partnership team with bus and train stations.

A small pilot has commenced in respect of schools reporting numbers of hate crimes / incidents into the LA, to enable us to identify any trends.

Communication continues to take place with 3rd party reporting centres, including an opportunity for them to request support on a quarterly basis through a returns document.

25. **Modern Slavery**

The DMBC Modern Slavery Statement has been updated, signed off by Leader of the Council, Shadow Leader and the Chief Executive and it has been uploaded to the DMBC website.

Due to COVID-19 "face to face" Modern Slavery training across the Borough was postponed. However, National Referral Mechanism training took place virtually with DMBC 'champions' on 24.04.20 - this is now being rolled out to identified staff, in addition the basic awareness course is now available as an e 'learning package via Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership for both DMBC and multiagency staff.

Work continues to take place with partners to identify victims / concerns and respond as appropriate. A 'protocol' has been developed in respect of new cases to be used to ensure that partners are being involved as appropriate and know what their response should be in respect of first responder organisations and non-first responder organisations. This was shared at CCSG in October and has been ratified following partners consideration and agreement.

Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking and the types of exploitation that fall under this banner have been included in the Local Authority's new Liquid Logic recording system that will be used by both Children and Adults Services. This will enable us to collect data going forward and identify any trends and subsequent work streams.

A briefing note has been developed and shared with unregulated accommodation providers and private sector housing to highlight the signs of modern slavery, how to report concerns and signpost them to the available training.

26. Preventing Extremism

The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a legal duty on specified authorities to have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism".

Government Guidance sets out that specified authorities should work in partnership to agree risk and coordinate activity. Work is taken forward through Dudley's Prevent Delivery Group in respect of planning and delivering partnership activity and through Dudley's Channel Panel in respect of safeguarding individuals who are at risk of being drawn into radicalisation. (Dudley MBC has the Statutory Duty to Chair Dudley's Channel Panel).

Dudley is not a Prevent Priority Area; however, Right Wing ideologies are of most concern for Dudley Borough.

Counter Terrorism Policing have launched a new website www.actearly.uk to encourage family and friends to share concerns, that a friend or loved one might be vulnerable to radicalisation. This has been promoted via social media and at a number of Forums.

The aim of the website is to: -

- Increase awareness of where to go for further information and support
- Increase awareness of the signs of radicalisation
- Increase understanding of and confidence in the Prevent referral process
- Encouraging referrals from concerned family and friends at an early stage
- Highlighting the police safeguarding role in Prevent

Other information can be found on the safe & sound website, including how to make a referral <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org> in the Prevent Help hub

27. Impact and Outcomes CCSG work in 2020/21



Standing agenda items of the group include Tension Monitoring and Hate Crime Data, this enables the group to identify and respond appropriately to any concerns or issues across the borough in relation to tensions or trends in hate crime.

Standing agenda items of the group also include Prevent and Channel Panel, through this the group get assurance that work in respect of radicalisation is taking place and that we are working together to protect our communities. Work that takes place through Channel Panel helps to safeguard individuals and keep our communities safe from harm.

Dudley Safeguarding People Partnership are now hosting a multiagency basic awareness eLearning courses in respect of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking and Hate Crime which will ensure that professionals across the Borough are aware of these issues and where to report concerns / signpost / support victims.

Communications took place throughout the year around the above topics in the safe and sound communications plan - this ensures that members of the community are aware of these issues and where to report concerns / signpost victims, thus offering reassurance to the wider community and offering support to those who may need it.

The work of the Group increases reassurance in communities that tensions are dealt with in a timely manner. It also allows people to know what behaviour constitutes a hate crime and how to report incidents (in a variety of ways) and access support if required. This in turn builds on the resilience of our communities and increases their ability to shape their own future without living in fear of abuse.

The Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking work stream increases the safety of potential victims and their families within the borough, it allows individuals themselves or members of the wider community to know how and where to report if they are experiencing, have witnessed or have concerns around any form of exploitation. It also enables victims to access support, thus improving the physical and mental health and wellbeing of individuals who have been exploited.

28. Looking Ahead/Moving Forward

- Refresher training is planned for 3rd Party Reporting Centres post COVID19
- Local Football Clubs have been contacted to ask if they would become 3rd Party Reporting Centres
- Modern Slavery and Prevent Training will be re-scheduled.
- Some work relating to our response to the needs and perceptions of communities within the Borough, including new and emerging communities had been put on hold due to COVID-19. Work is now included in the 2021/22 action plan
- The Group will consider any workstreams required going forward in relation to COVID-19.
- Communications and campaigns will continue as a matter of course.

Finance

29 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Law

30. Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) must meet the requirements set out by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and its subsequent amendments.

Other legislation that applies to Safe & Sound (Dudley's Community Safety Partnership) includes:-

- Police and Justice Act 2006
- Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
- Health and Social Care Act 2012
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015
- Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Domestic Abuse Act – 2021

Risk Management

31. There are no material risks related to this item.

Equality Impact

32. There are no equality impact implications arising directly from this report. However, there are differential impacts on individuals, families, and communities in respect of issues that the Community Safety Partnership seeks to address. This needs to be borne in mind when planning and delivering work and services

33. Communities, including young people have been consulted with to inform the priorities of the Community Safety Partnership

34. Work undertaken by the CSP will have a positive effect on children and young people who may be affected by the issues that the CSP seeks to address.

35. There are two Youth Police and Crime Commissioners on the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Board. They are supported in their role through DMBC – Youth Service and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Officer. The Board receives updates in respect of their work and concerns of young people.

Human Resources/Organisational Development

36. Whilst this report does not have any immediate organisational development/HR or transformational implications, it is important to build the confidence of the workforce in respect of a range of issues covered in this report and relating to the "community safety" agenda.

Commercial/Procurement

37. There are no commercial or procurement implications arising directly from this report.

Council Priorities

38. The work of the Community Safety Partnership links in with the Council Plan particularly in respect of Safer and Stronger Communities

Supporting Vulnerable People (Goal)

- Working in partnership with others to ensure that anti-social behaviour and appropriate joint service interventions are in place to support communities (Objective)

39. We have a Statutory Duty to “deliver” in line with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.



Paul Davies
Director of Housing and Community Services

Contact Officer: Sue Haywood – Head of Community Safety
Telephone: 01384 818115
Email: sue.haywood@dudley.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) Structure Chart

For more information please visit Safe & Sound (Dudley’s Community Safety Partnership) website <https://www.dudleysafeandsound.org>